

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are now present in this application, with new claims 10-18 being added by the present Preliminary Amendment. It should be noted that the amendments to original claims 1-9 of the present application are non-narrowing amendments, made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations. For example, amendments have been made to broaden the claims; remove reference numerals in the claims; remove/change any phrases unique to European practice; remove multiple dependencies in the claims; and to place claims in a more recognizable U.S. form, including the use of the transitional phrase "comprising" as well as the phrase "wherein". Other such non-narrowing amendments include placing apparatus-type claims (setting forth elements in separate paragraphs) in a more recognizable U.S. form. Again, all amendments are non-narrowing and have been made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-18

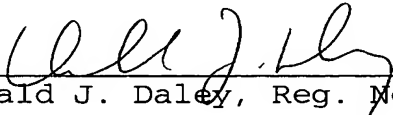
in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By: 
Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

DJD/bof

New PCT National Phase Application
Docket No. 32860-000802/US

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

Description

TRANSMISSION OF MEASURED VALUES IN HIGH-VOLTAGE SUPPLY **UNITS FOR ELECTROFILTERS**

~~Measured value transmission in high voltage supplies~~
~~for electric filters~~

[0001] This application is the national phase under 35
U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No.
PCT/DE03/01119 which has an International filing date
of April 4, 2003, which designated the United States of
America and which claims priority on German Patent
Application number DE 102 17 059.2 filed April 17,
2002, the entire contents of which are hereby
incorporated herein by reference.

Field of the Invention

[0002] The invention generally relates to a high-voltage
supply device for electric filters having high-voltage
devices. Preferably, it relates to one, which are
arranged close to the electric filter, and to one by
means of which the electric filter can be supplied with
an electrical high voltage. The device may further
include measuring heads, which are associated with the
high-voltage devices, and by means of which measured
values and, if necessary, diagnosis data from the high-
voltage devices can be detected and transmitted, and.
The device may even further include control units,
which are each associated with a high-voltage device,
and by means of which the high-voltage devices
associated with them can be controlled and regulated
depending on requirements and taking into consideration
measured values and, if necessary, diagnosis data
transmitted by the measuring heads.

Background of the Invention

[0003] The transmission of measured values and, if necessary, diagnosis data by the high-voltage devices or from the high-voltage part of an electric filter is necessary for controlling the power electronics of the high-voltage devices used for producing the high voltage. ~~Said~~ The measured values are required, inter alia, in order to detect any flashovers occurring. For this purpose, signal sampling of usually 10 ksamples/s per measured value is required.

[0004] At each high-voltage device, at least two measured values are detected, namely a measured value for the voltage and a measured value for the current. It is also possible to detect diagnosis data. It is possible to detect further measured values at the high-voltage device, for example for the temperature, the transformer primary voltage of the high-voltage device and the like.

[0005] The high-voltage devices or their high-voltage transformers are usually arranged on the roof of a housing in which the electric filter is accommodated. In contrast, the control units, including the power electronics, are accommodated in a control room which, in the case of large electric filters, is at a spacing of approximately 100 m to 700 m from the electric filter and thus from the high-voltage devices.

[0006] During operation of the high-voltage devices, voltages are used which are of the order of magnitude of 100 kV, with the result that electrical signal lines for signal transmission are not very suitable for transmitting signals between the measuring heads associated with the high-voltage devices and the control units.

[0007] In the case of a high-voltage supply device known from the prior art for electric filters, the measured values are transmitted from the measuring heads associated with the high-voltage devices to the control units using a suitable transmission protocol via optical waveguides. This transmission method gives the required signal qualities. In the case of this high-voltage supply device for electric filters, each of the measuring heads of a high-voltage device is connected via an optical waveguide path to the control unit associated with the relevant high-voltage device.

[0008] In particular in the case of comparatively large spacings between the control room accommodating the control units and the power electronics, on the one hand, and the high-voltage devices arranged close to the electric filter, on the other hand, considerable financial outlay for the installation and laying of the optical waveguide cable results in the case of the known point-to-point connections between in each case one high-voltage device and the control unit associated with it. This aspect is particularly important when modifying existing high-voltage supply devices of this type, in which generally copper cables have already been laid, and often results in copper cables continuing to be used for signal transmission for financial reasons, although the signal quality which can be achieved with copper cables is considerably worse.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] An embodiment of the invention is based on the ~~an~~ object of developing a high-voltage supply device for electric filters ~~of the type mentioned initially such that,~~ with a justifiable amount of financial outlay, it is possible to improve the signal quality when transmitting data between the measuring heads provided

on the high-voltage devices and the control units arranged in the control room which is at a comparatively large spacing from the high-voltage devices.

[0010] ~~An~~This object may be~~is~~ achieved according to an embodiment of the invention by the measuring heads on the high-voltage device side, each having an optical waveguide interface, by the measuring heads on the high-voltage device side being connected via their optical waveguide interfaces in a first local optical waveguide network, by the control units being connected to one another by ~~means~~way of a second local optical waveguide network, and by the local optical waveguide network on the high-voltage device side and the local optical waveguide network on the control unit side being coupled to one another by ~~means~~way of an optical waveguide connection.

[0011] In the case of the high-voltage supply device according to an embodiment of the invention for electric filters, the data based on the measured values and the diagnosis data are received directly at the high-voltage devices by ~~means~~way of the microcontroller-based measuring heads. In the case of conventional electric filters, an average number of approximately 20 high-voltage devices is used as a basis, and these high-voltage devices are generally arranged at a small spacing from one another which may be a few meters. By ~~means~~way of the optical waveguide interface which is associated with each high-voltage device or its measuring heads, all of the measuring heads on the high-voltage device side are connected to one another in the first local optical waveguide network.

[0012] Since the control units are also connected to one another via the second local optical waveguide network,

the two local optical waveguide networks may be coupled to one another by ~~means~~ way of a single optical waveguide connection, the financial outlay for setting up the two optical waveguide networks, which have only small dimensions, and for setting up the optical waveguide connection connecting these two local optical waveguide networks being comparatively low.

[0013] Only one optical waveguide connection is required to overcome the large distance between the two local optical waveguide networks. Using the optical waveguide technology which is available today, it is easily possible to realize the transmission rate of at least 10 Mbaud which is required for a configuration of the electric filter having approximately 20 high-voltage devices, it being necessary to select a suitable bus access control method.

[0014] The local optical waveguide network on the high-voltage device side and/or the local optical waveguide network on the control unit side may advantageously have a ring topology or a star topology, in which case the local optical waveguide networks or the ring or star topologies forming them should expediently be of redundant design in order to prevent total data transmission failures. It may optionally be possible to realize such redundancy of the local optical waveguide networks.

[0015] Since, in the case of the high-voltage supply device according to n embodiment of the invention for electric filters, the extent of the two local optical waveguide networks provided is comparatively low, the optical waveguides of the local optical waveguide networks may comprise, in a cost-efficient manner, plastic optical waveguides which can be easily prefabricated.

[0016] In order to ensure high availability of the data transmission between the two local optical waveguide networks it is expedient if the optical waveguide connection between the two local optical waveguide networks is of redundant design. The optical waveguide connection between the two local optical waveguide networks overcomes the comparatively large distance which is produced from the spacing between the control room and the high-voltage devices provided on the electric filter.

[0017] Glass or PCF optical waveguides may—expediently be used as the optical waveguides in this optical waveguide connection. Sheathed optical waveguide cables which may be designed, for example, as a CUPOFLEX+ cable have proved to be a particularly advantageous design for the optical waveguide connection.

[0018] Standard protocols, for example CAN, PROFIBUS, TCP/IP protocols or the like, may expediently be used as the transmission protocol between the measuring heads and the control units.

[0019] In the case of the high-voltage supply device according to an embodiment of the invention for electric filters, a network technology is used which can be used with high reliability for transmitting measured values and diagnosis data between high-voltage devices and control units under real-time conditions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020] Further advantages, features and details of the invention will become evident from the description of illustrated exemplary embodiments given hereinbelow and the accompanying drawings, which are given by way of illustration only and thus are not limitative of the present invention, wherein:

~~[0021] The invention will be explained in more detail below using an embodiment with reference to the drawing, a single~~the ~~figure of which illustrates the parts of a high-voltage supply device for electric filters which are essential used in an embodiment of~~the ~~the present invention here.~~

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

[0022] Associated with a high-voltage supply device according to an embodiment of the invention for electric filters, as is illustrated schematically in the figure, are high-voltage devices 1, by ~~means of~~ which the high voltage required for operating the electric filter can be generated.

[0023] An electric filter which is generally used, for example, in a power station, has, for example, 20 high-voltage devices 1. Its high-voltage transformers are often arranged on the roof of a housing accommodating the electric filter.

[0024] The transmission of measured values from the high-voltage devices 1 supplying power to the high-voltage part of the electric filter is thus necessary, inter alia, for detecting electrical flashovers. Depending on the measured values to be detected, signal sampling of typically 10 ksamples/s is thus required.

[0025] In the case of the high-voltage devices 1, at least two measured values are detected, namely a voltage value and a current value. Diagnosis data are also supplied by the high-voltage device 1.

[0026] It is possible for further measured values to be detected, for example the temperature or the transformer primary voltage.

[0027] In the embodiment (shown in the single figure) of the high-voltage supply device according to the invention for electric filters, two measuring heads 2, 3 are provided per high-voltage device 1 and are arranged directly on the respective high-voltage device 1.

[0028] Each measuring head 2, 3 of each high-voltage device 1 has an optical waveguide interface 4, all of the measuring heads 2, 3 of the high-voltage devices 1 being connected to one another by means of their optical waveguide interfaces 4 in a first local optical waveguide network 5.

[0029] The first local optical waveguide network 5 on the high-voltage device side has comparatively small dimensions, since the high-voltage devices 1 associated with the high-voltage part of the electric filter are generally arranged at a small spacing from one another.

[0030] The first local optical waveguide network 5 preferably has a ring or star topology. The physical extent of the first local optical waveguide network 5 on the high-voltage device side is comparatively small, with the result that inexpensive plastic optical waveguides which can be prefabricated in a simple manner can be used as the optical waveguides.

[0031] The ring topology or the star topology of the first local optical waveguide network 5 is of redundant design, ~~which ensures that.~~ As such, in the event of disruptions, communication failures or the like, only the high-voltage device 1 affected thereby can no longer be operated, whereas the high-voltage devices 1 which are not immediately affected can continue to be operated.

[0032] Associated with each high-voltage device 1 is a control unit 6, the control units 6 with their power electronics generally being accommodated in a control room. This control room may, in the case of comparatively large electric filters, be at a spacing of between 100 and 700 m from the high-voltage devices 1.

[0033] The control units 6 are likewise connected to one another via a second local optical waveguide network 7. This second local optical waveguide network 7 also has comparatively small dimensions, which makes it possible for inexpensive plastic optical waveguides which can be prefabricated in a simple manner to be used in its design.

[0034] The first local optical waveguide network 5 on the high-voltage device side and the second local optical waveguide network 7 on the control unit side are coupled to one another via an optical waveguide connection 8. In order to ensure high availability of the optical waveguide connection between the two local optical waveguide networks 5, 7, the optical waveguide connection 8 is provided twice, so as to realize redundant data transmission. By ~~means~~ way of the optical waveguide connection 8 which is provided twice, the comparatively large distances which separate the building accommodating the electric filter and the

control room accommodating the control units 6 from one another are bridged.

[0035] In the case of the optical waveguide connection 8, glass or PCF optical waveguides are used as the optical waveguides. Optical waveguide cables, for example CUPOFLEX+ cables, have proved advantageous for this purpose.

[0036] Standard protocols, for example CAN, PROFIBUS, TCP/IP protocols or the like can be used as transmission protocols for the data transmission.

[0037] Using the optical waveguide technology conventional today, it is easily possible to realize a transmission rate of at least 10 Mbaud which is required for a configuration of the electric filter having 20 high-voltage devices 1. The exact transmission rate is, of course, dependent on the nature of the access to the local optical waveguide networks 5, 7.

[0038] The high-voltage devices 1 are supplied with power ~~by means of~~via an electrical power supply line 9 to which the individual high-voltage devices 1 are connected.

[0039] Exemplary embodiments being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the present invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.